

The Powers of Military Commanders.

We had supposed that the various commanders of the Southern Districts would have confined themselves to the duties devolving upon them by the terms of the Reconstruction acts of Congress, with a conscientious regard to its limitations, and as demanded by the very important purposes sought. We had thought they would have confined themselves strictly to defining who were disfranchised and who excluded from office and begun the work of reconstruction at once, not interfering with the civil governments, without just cause, proved after due investigation. That such has not been the case, is, we conceive, a matter for regret, and we submit, is proper subject for the consideration of the Government.

The example of General Sheridan in New Orleans, in discharging several of the most important municipal and State officers without cause or reason being assigned, has been eclipsed in Texas by one of his subalterns in refusing to permit citizens of that State, who gave any support to the Confederate cause, to serve on juries, limiting the jurors to such as can take the test-oath. The legal authority for this order, says the *New York Times*, "has not been cited, and none can be found. The Reconstruction act contains no provision upon the subject. It declares who shall be disfranchised and who shall be excluded from office; but in respect of juries it is silent. General Griffin's order, then, is arbitrary and unjustifiable."

When we contemplate that, by this sweeping and fearful order, the protection of the life, liberty and property of the citizen in Texas, is placed almost under the sole administration of the blacks, who, however honest they may be, are entirely incompetent for the discharge of these grave responsibilities, we can appreciate how mischievous and dangerous it is to place the interests of communities and the well-being of individuals in the power of one man, responsible only to an arbitrary and tyrannical party majority, who now wield the destinies of the country with an iron rod. Before this usurpation of power, the arbitrary acts of other commanders are insignificant. One aims directly at the life, liberty and property of the citizens of a whole State, the others are rather exhibitions of petty vindictiveness or prompted by a desire for the further humiliation of the Southern people.

However this may be, whether we regard this dangerous order of General Griffin, or the removal of officers by General Sheridan and Ord, or the abrogation of State laws by General Scales, or the warnings to the press by General Schofield, or the powers claimed and exercised under the Reconstruction acts, we see that there is no uniform construction given to them. As they are laws enforcing pains and penalties against the people of ten States, they should be construed most liberally towards those affected, yet on the contrary, all, in fact, (and one by confession,) are enforcing it most stringently, claiming for the Government the benefit of every doubt.

A law-abiding people are always most anxious that their laws, if not construed in a liberal and conciliatory spirit, should be uniform and definite. He who does not expect to obey laws, or from want of character or property is not affected by them, cares very little what they are or who administers them. The people of the South are now suffering as much from the uncertainty of their own rights and the powers of their Commanders as from the injustice of the law itself. If the necessities of the times and the purposes of the occasion required the destruction of State governments and the erection of military ones in their stead, "a decent regard for the opinions of mankind," if not for the welfare of our people, should have compelled the law-making power to have defined clearly and unmistakably the rights of the governed and the powers of the governor.

This is what is now asked of the President, as Commander-in-Chief, by the Southern people. They would not appeal to him, had he the power to grant it, that the laws of Congress be annulled, and so far as were concerned, would ask for the removal or exchange of our Military Governor. The laws will be promptly obeyed and the orders of the Commander complied with. What is now wished for is a general order embracing specific instructions to the five Military Commanders to the end that at least a uniform course of action on their part may prevail, and the just governor may have a recognized code to regulate his powers and the peaceable citizen may know the law which prescribes his duties. This opportunity will be offered in the forthcoming opinion of the Attorney General, which we trust will be taken advantage of, and not only the rights of citizens, but the powers of commanders be distinctly laid down.

In reviewing the blunders of Southern Military Commanders, the *New York Herald* calls upon the President, the Secretary of War and General Grant to issue a general order to secure not only a uniform but liberal and conciliatory course of action on the part of our Commanders, while the *New York Times*, in censuring these very acts, recommends the same chief from their repetition through the orders of the President based upon the opinion of Mr. Stannard. It says:

"It is to be hoped that the forthcoming opinion of the Attorney-General will define the powers and duties of the commanding generals with a fullness and precision that will obviate difficulty and prevent needless interference with the law, the press, or the people of the South."

A subject of such grave importance certainly demands the attention of the government, and an order from the proper authority will relieve the conscientious commander from all doubt, and will prevent the arbitrary action of others who are not influenced by such feelings. In any event, while not hindering the object of the law, such an order will relieve the people from uncertainties, if not from hardships, which, after all, is one of the purposes of good governments.

Riots.

We deplore exceedingly the Radical design of inaugurating riots and bloodshed in the South, for the purpose of arousing the partisan hatred of the people of the North, is meeting with fearful success. Violent disturbances and bloody riots are daily chronicled as the fruits of some party language or convention. The scene rapidly changes from Richmond to Charleston, New Orleans, Galveston, Brownsville, Tenn., and finally to Mobile, all attended with features and results which must awaken in the breast of every thoughtful person the most serious apprehensions and fearful forebodings of future trouble and danger, unless the growing estrangement between the races is checked by the wise and prudent action of the substantial men of the country, and the earnest and active co-operation of the more intelligent and thoughtful portion of the colored people.

While we are not prepared to think that Judge Kelley designedly and by premeditation uttered language in his Mobile speech intended to provoke an already excited crowd, we cannot excuse one of his good sense and experience in addressing assemblies in large cities, in using expressions calculated to lead and invite riotous demonstrations. Nor have we any words of justification for the crowd who began the disorderly proceedings which terminated in a disgraceful and bloody riot. We are glad to see that a large meeting of the citizens of that city, of both colors, vindicated the peaceful and orderly character of the citizens by a prompt and bold disapprobation of the conduct of the rioters. Their candidly expressed opinion that the disturbance was unpremeditated, being the result of the accidental excitement to which all large assemblies are subject, will carry conviction to all unprejudiced minds. The fact, as announced by telegraph, that but few of the whites were armed, while most of the blacks were, is proof that the former must have been present to listen quietly to Judge Kelley, while the latter were at least prepared for the very emergency which happened.

Whether the mission of the distinguished Radicals in the South is intended to foment disturbances and encourage disorders, (we are satisfied the purposes of Conway, Hayward, Hunnicutt, Holden and Sinclair are,) the effect of their speeches certainly results in these very things, and if their campaign accomplishes no good for the cause of Radicalism in the South, the disturbances and riots which attend or follow them, will revive the sinking fortunes of the party at the North. As a matter of policy, therefore, if it was not wrong on other grounds, we hope that the Southern people will set their faces against these disturbances, and while giving no countenance to the men, however distinguished they may be, whose language is insulting to the whites and encouraging disorder and discontent in the blacks, they will, by their influence and by the certain application of wholesome laws, restrain all who are disposed to encourage and aid in the riots which are now an alarming feature of all political gatherings in the Southern cities.

That those troubles are the result of the teachings of bad men for party purposes, is now admitted by all the respectable Radical papers of the North. The *New York Tribune*, the ablest of their journals, says in speaking of the Richmond riots:

"The slight threatnings and beginnings of riot in Richmond, on Saturday, do not indicate serious trouble. There seems to have been white men in that city who have given the colored people bad counsel, which some of them have been foolish enough to follow. Contrasted with this local and partial disorder is the general excellent and moderate behavior of the freedmen throughout the South, by which they should rightly be judged." The fact that Judge Underwood and Mr. Greeley, the editor of the *Tribune*, who was present in Richmond at the time, had to go to the meeting on Sunday night after the disturbances, and resort to threats to overawe and terrify them, is sufficient answer as to the character of the "slight threatnings and beginnings of riot"—beginnings which the earnest and terrible promise of General Schofield, that if there was any disturbance "he would plant cannon and sweep the streets with grape-shot," was alone able to check.

The general excellent and moderate behavior of the freedmen throughout the South, as suggested by the *Tribune*, is the very best evidence which could be produced that the local and partial disorder of the colored people was due to the bad counsel of mean white men, which the colored people have been foolish enough to follow. On the plantations, away from the headquarters of Bureau agents and political preachers and teachers, where the Southern blacks come only in contact with Southern whites, the old friendly intercourse is preserved, and the white proprietor and the black laborer are living together in peace and harmony, and the kind protection and employment of the one and the quiet industry and orderly conduct of the other are convincing proofs that if left alone the Southern people, white and black, would solve the difficult questions now disturbing these States, in a manner satisfactory to both races and in accordance with the best interests of the country. Wherever the colored people have been in immediate contact with, and under the instruction of, local or itinerant incendiary Radicals, habits of vicious idleness and riotous conduct have been indulged in at the expense of law and order, but when they have been under the influence of correct and kind employers, their former owners or strangers, they have shown themselves contented and industrious laborers.

So long as there is a likelihood of the freedmen following the course their natural promptings and interests dictate, these emissaries will come among them, and while there is a hope of radicalizing the South, we fear, these disturbances and riots will be encouraged and the fomented promoters of discord hold a grand carnival at the expense of the prosperity of the country and to the special injury of the colored people. We hope the breach they have already made between the whites and blacks, and which is daily widening, will not proceed to extremes. The very men who plot and inaugurate the disturbances are never in danger. At the critical moment they man-

age to shift the responsibility upon the shoulders of rebels and transfer the danger to the person of blacks. We have hopes that these people will soon know their real friends, and those who are now worshipping strange gods will soon return within the protecting influences of their Penates.

Col. J. D. Whitford.

We are glad to learn, from a reliable source, that the rumored removal, by military order, of this gentleman as President of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad, is without foundation. It may be true that certain persons about Newberne, desiring to make their new-born "loyalty" pay, have endeavored to effect this object, but we have no idea that General Scales will give his approval to their partisan schemes. There are but few if any of the "unmistakably loyal" men in the South who will not endeavor to make their patriotism remunerative, without regard to the rights of man or the laws of God.

The Riverside Magazine.

We have received from the publishers, Messrs. HAND and HOUGHTON, No. 439, Broome st., New York, several numbers of their beautiful monthly, *THE RIVERSIDE MAGAZINE*, is especially intended for the young people, and we have seen no paper or periodical so well suited to the taste and improvement of the young. The matter is well written, very interesting, and instructive, and the illustrations well executed and very attractive. This Monthly must become a great favorite with the little folks.

The Fidelity of Mr. Davis's Servants. Married on Tuesday night, May 7th, at Fort Monroe, Carroll Hall, by the Rev. O. S. Barton, Rector of Christ Church, Norfolk, Frederick McGinnis to Ellen Barnes.

The above deserves more than a passing notice. It is not often, in these days, that we witness such faithfulness and devotion on the part of servants. Both parties belonged to Mr. Davis's household, and have shared with him and his family their protracted imprisonment. They were his slaves in Richmond, and have remained true and devoted to him through good and evil report. When, after the evacuation of Richmond, the family were compelled to move Southward, Ellen could not be persuaded to leave them, but faithfully shared with them the toil and suffering of those fearful days.

When, after Mr. Davis's capture and his removal to the Fortress, his anxious, almost distracted wife was waiting for tidings from him who, by the chances of war, had been thus cruelly torn from her side, Frederick, ever faithful and true, soon came, bringing tidings to go to him and help in his suffering to his wants. When told that the slender means of the fallen family would never permit such an expenditure, his services were offered and gladly, without reward or remuneration. When at last, arrangements were made and means provided for him, and he found himself within the Fortress, a part of his wages were carefully laid aside, and have been regularly sent home to South Carolina to his old mistress, (like many others, impoverished by the war), who, in his own words, had been as good to him, and whom he loved as a mother. A like faithfulness and liberality must be recorded of Ellen.

Surely such an instance speaks for itself. Who does not feel that the untrustworthy faithfulness and devotion of these good people are a noble tribute to one who was so true to him and helped him in his hour of need, with peculiar affection, whom his friends admire and cherish for his integrity and noble bearing in public, and quiet gentleness and refined sympathy in private.

God bless the happy pair! May "heaven smile upon them and give them all the good things of life, which they so richly deserve."

Now and Then.

"The splendid and patriotic record made by this great political organization, standing by the loyal Government with an inflexible resolution, in carrying forward profound measures of statesmanship to successful issue, and the powerful aid given by it in finally overthrowing and prostrating the most gigantic rebellion of ancient or modern times, by all who have the respect and challenge the admiration of every candid man,"—*Republican Platform*.

On the evening of the first of July, 1862, the writer was lying in line of battle in the lane leading past Allen's farm. In front of him stood the batteries of McClellan's Grand Army, and on the right the Monitor and Galois. About five in the afternoon the fight became terrific. The missiles from the two monitors—only three-quarters of a mile distant—were breaking all around us; and it was with the utmost difficulty that the officers and men could hold their place to their work. While the din of battle raged around us, the terror of the scene was wonderfully enhanced by the rout of a battery of artillery, which fled past us in the wildest panic, soon came a squadron of cavalry, in the most frightful disorder, yelling in their turn that we were whipped, and that the Yankees were upon us. However, Col. Keenan held his regiment to its place, and about sundown we saw a North Carolina battery, which had occupied the advance, slowly returning, after having expended the last round in the caisson; and the brave and determined Captain at its head, as cool and serene as a May morning. His gallantry and bearing so impressed our regiment that it gave three cheers for the company and its brave officers.

That battery was cast from the bells of Richmond, not a mile from this city, and commanded by a favorite son of a county which, in 1776, was regarded as one of the most rebellious in the colonies; and that son too, one of the earliest to volunteer in the army of the "Lost Cause." Our frail and passing breath may leave us, but there are deeds that will live for ever—deeds that are graven with the stylus of immortality on the stony page of history, there to blaze like stars to guide and instruct the nation's youth forever. Parties may change—what was fashionable yesterday may be obnoxious to-morrow—principles are eternal; and thought, excitement may cause the heart of the nation to vacillate and to waver, like Noah's Dove it will, after the turmoil is over and the second thought taken, return to rest on the rock of eternal truth.—*Charlotte Times*.

Gov. Brownlow has issued an address to the people of Tennessee. It replies, in his peculiar style, to his political opponents, and urges the Governor's claims to a reelection. Just then a bystander stepped up to Warner, and clapping him on the shoulder said to him, "Go in partner, I'll go your halves on that. I don't know either of you, but I reckon you were a Yankee soldier. I was a Confederate soldier, from Texas, and I was in at one end of the war and came out at the other. I'll bet this d—d blow was in the army, or he'd never talk that way. I fought you fellows long enough to find out you weren't cowards." The matter ended here. Warner's bet wasn't taken, and the d—d blowy scolding was over. It is a pity that such a scolding is hurtful to the Southern people, because it reaches the ears of the North, and passes current as the sentiment of the people

NOTES OF TRAVEL IN THE SOUTH.

Suggestion as to the Confederate Dead.—Gen'l Willard Warner, of Montgomery County—His Views.—"You Can't Live in the South"—The Freedmen and the People.—The Freedmen and the People.—Tombs, Graves and Streets Generally.—Grant and Dick Taylor.

From the Cincinnati Commercial.

ATLANTA, Ga., April 30, 1867.

The Southern people are collecting their dead as best they can, and removing their remains to city and town cemeteries. Of course the work will not be nearly as complete as that being done at such great expense and care on behalf of the Union dead. In my opinion they ought to be assisted and encouraged in the enterprise as one of charity and humanity, if they would only agree not to make it the occasion of the most ill-tempered and injudicious oratory, stirring up feelings which it is to their interest to allay, and kindling a spirit of sectional hostility which should be put to rest by the best of men in the North. The collection and decent interment at stated points, of all the rebel dead, might well be undertaken by the National Government, assisted by the Southern people, who would readily give the land and labor which would be necessary to carry out the enterprise. A suggestion like this needs to be made with great caution, lest it incur the censure of those who are justly proud of the place of honor which the Southern people of the North have won in the North. The collection and decent interment at stated points, of all the rebel dead, might well be undertaken by the National Government, assisted by the Southern people, who would readily give the land and labor which would be necessary to carry out the enterprise. A suggestion like this needs to be made with great caution, lest it incur the censure of those who are justly proud of the place of honor which the Southern people of the North have won in the North.

When I say that the people seem to me to be in favor of the Reconstruction Law, I would not be understood as asserting that they believe it. I am merely saying that they do not oppose it as a principle of constitutional law, or that they are in love with it in any way. Very far from that they may be, and still not behind a great many of the best men of the North, and the Kephalonian party, too. I think the people very near to expressing the sentiment of the people of the South, and especially of those whom I have met, when I say that they regard their situation as one which justifies them in overlooking the means of reconstruction, so long as they are not asked to surrender the Union, and it is important to them that they should get back into it. The North has agreed upon a plan by which they may come back, and it is for them to say whether they will accept of this, or remain in their present condition longer, with the chances in favor of their coming back, and the more so as the war is now ten years old. In other words, it is a choice of evils with them—and they accept the least, like sensible men, and with as good a grace as the people of the North have any right to expect.

The negroes of this section are, for the most part, industriously employed, and take care of themselves in their new condition of freedom. A good deal of mischief has been done among them by political emissaries sent from Radical headquarters over the right, they will secure the passage of the confederation bill, and receive forty acres of land and a house each. That, Stevens' confederation speech has been circulated among those of them who can read and fully expounded to those who cannot, and the result has been to fill their minds with expectations which will never be fulfilled. The intelligent negroes to be found in the cities are not easily persuaded into full faith in confederation, but the ignorant field hands are, and the missionary work has been asiduously prosecuted among them. The whites are very much alarmed on the subject, and are industriously trying to meet the negroes in a different way. It is difficult to convince that the Republican party will not pass the confederation bill next winter. If you ask what would be the effect of its passage you will be told that it would be to inaugurate a war of races, to end only in the extermination of the blacks, or of the whites. The South is certain that Congress need not attempt to parcel out the Southern lands among the negroes till it is prepared to furnish each negro with a standing army to protect his farm. Men may quietly submit to the curtailment of their political rights—their property rights, but they will not be allowed to participate in the office of a government which they have been endeavoring to destroy, but when an attempt is made to drive them from their homes, dispossess them of everything they have upon earth, and impoverish themselves and their families, they will rise up and resist to the bitter end, and the worst passions of their nature gain and retain the ascendancy.

This threat of confiscation has had a very bad effect upon the industry of the South. Men feel insecure with Stevens' bill hanging like the sword of Damocles over their heads. They have no disposition to engage in active pursuits, to acquire property or improve what they have, with the fear of being despoiled of every dollar constantly before them. I have heard twenty men allude to this subject in this light within a week. The negroes are very much alarmed, and the Republican party, whose word is law, and who never fails to bring his party up to whatever line of policy he may see fit to mark out. If they had closely watched the proceedings of the last two sessions of Congress, they would think differently, for the old school received the sanction of the two Houses. His bill, if passed, would in many cases so amended and modified that he himself voted against them or denounced them.

Another bad effect of the threatened confiscation has been to retard the work of reconstruction by creating the impression that the existing law is not a finality, but that "worse remains behind." The Southern people ought to understand that it is for them to make it a finality by accepting it and pressing it through to its consummation, and not to make it a finality by refusing to do so. They dare not go before the country in the next Presidential election with the Southern States unrepresented in Congress, unless the fault can be attributed to the Southern States themselves by their failure to comply with the terms now before them. If they are admitted into Congress, and if they are not, they will be defeated by their votes, and if they are not admitted, the confederation party will be beaten at the polls. But if they refuse to comply with the laws of Congress and seek delay or redress in the Supreme Court, they will strengthen the Thad. Stevens' view of the Republican party, and confederation may be the result. The South is now in a very bad position, and it is now as unpopular as negro suffrage was two years ago.

Most of the "anti-bellum" statesmen of Georgia are in a state of quiescence. "Tombs has abandoned all hope of making his slaves army, or roll call at the end of the war, and has settled down into the peaceful pursuits of private life at his home in Washington, Georgia, about a hundred miles from this place. He came out of the war tolerably well, considering the share he took in bringing it on. He lost nothing but his slave property. He has large landed estates in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, and he is now diligently cultivating them with free labor. Those who know him, and have recently seen him say that no inducements could get him into politics again. He accepts the situation, will obey the laws and behave himself. In the Senate at the outbreak of the war, he was living at Macomb—broken down in fortune, and laid in health. He managed to lose all his property by the war, and now supports himself by keeping a large wood yard. The Georgians laugh a good deal at his misfortunes, and when they ask them, when he is doing, they tell you he is saving cordwood. A. H. Stephens, is little seen or heard of. He is at his home, at Crawfordville, on the road between here and Augusta, practicing law. His views on the reconstruction question are not known. They have been given to the public, in a long and elaborate treatise, and have been as repeatedly contradicted. I heard something recently in connection with the election of Mr. Stephens to the United States Senate, which

among whom it is uttered. One denunciation I have just written about will leave no doubt as to the feelings of the best and the wisest statesmen of the South, counselling obedience to law, and return to allegiance under the Constitution. It is a lamentable fact, but it is a fact, nevertheless, and not at all creditable to the candor or the discrimination of the people of the South, represented in the extremists of the Radical party. In order to punish a single blackskirt, who was probably a skulker in the late war to boot such men as Stevens and Sumner would pass a law affecting injuriously the entire population of the South. They have reversed the Scripture doctrine, and instead of punishing righteous men to save a land, would let one jackass destroy it.

When I say that the people seem to me to be in favor of the Reconstruction Law, I would not be understood as asserting that they believe it. I am merely saying that they do not oppose it as a principle of constitutional law, or that they are in love with it in any way. Very far from that they may be, and still not behind a great many of the best men of the North, and the Kephalonian party, too. I think the people very near to expressing the sentiment of the people of the South, and especially of those whom I have met, when I say that they regard their situation as one which justifies them in overlooking the means of reconstruction, so long as they are not asked to surrender the Union, and it is important to them that they should get back into it. The North has agreed upon a plan by which they may come back, and it is for them to say whether they will accept of this, or remain in their present condition longer, with the chances in favor of their coming back, and the more so as the war is now ten years old. In other words, it is a choice of evils with them—and they accept the least, like sensible men, and with as good a grace as the people of the North have any right to expect.

The negroes of this section are, for the most part, industriously employed, and take care of themselves in their new condition of freedom. A good deal of mischief has been done among them by political emissaries sent from Radical headquarters over the right, they will secure the passage of the confederation bill, and receive forty acres of land and a house each. That, Stevens' confederation speech has been circulated among those of them who can read and fully expounded to those who cannot, and the result has been to fill their minds with expectations which will never be fulfilled. The intelligent negroes to be found in the cities are not easily persuaded into full faith in confederation, but the ignorant field hands are, and the missionary work has been asiduously prosecuted among them. The whites are very much alarmed on the subject, and are industriously trying to meet the negroes in a different way. It is difficult to convince that the Republican party will not pass the confederation bill next winter. If you ask what would be the effect of its passage you will be told that it would be to inaugurate a war of races, to end only in the extermination of the blacks, or of the whites. The South is certain that Congress need not attempt to parcel out the Southern lands among the negroes till it is prepared to furnish each negro with a standing army to protect his farm. Men may quietly submit to the curtailment of their political rights—their property rights, but they will not be allowed to participate in the office of a government which they have been endeavoring to destroy, but when an attempt is made to drive them from their homes, dispossess them of everything they have upon earth, and impoverish themselves and their families, they will rise up and resist to the bitter end, and the worst passions of their nature gain and retain the ascendancy.

This threat of confiscation has had a very bad effect upon the industry of the South. Men feel insecure with Stevens' bill hanging like the sword of Damocles over their heads. They have no disposition to engage in active pursuits, to acquire property or improve what they have, with the fear of being despoiled of every dollar constantly before them. I have heard twenty men allude to this subject in this light within a week. The negroes are very much alarmed, and the Republican party, whose word is law, and who never fails to bring his party up to whatever line of policy he may see fit to mark out. If they had closely watched the proceedings of the last two sessions of Congress, they would think differently, for the old school received the sanction of the two Houses. His bill, if passed, would in many cases so amended and modified that he himself voted against them or denounced them.

Another bad effect of the threatened confiscation has been to retard the work of reconstruction by creating the impression that the existing law is not a finality, but that "worse remains behind." The Southern people ought to understand that it is for them to make it a finality by accepting it and pressing it through to its consummation, and not to make it a finality by refusing to do so. They dare not go before the country in the next Presidential election with the Southern States unrepresented in Congress, unless the fault can be attributed to the Southern States themselves by their failure to comply with the terms now before them. If they are admitted into Congress, and if they are not, they will be defeated by their votes, and if they are not admitted, the confederation party will be beaten at the polls. But if they refuse to comply with the laws of Congress and seek delay or redress in the Supreme Court, they will strengthen the Thad. Stevens' view of the Republican party, and confederation may be the result. The South is now in a very bad position, and it is now as unpopular as negro suffrage was two years ago.

Most of the "anti-bellum" statesmen of Georgia are in a state of quiescence. "Tombs has abandoned all hope of making his slaves army, or roll call at the end of the war, and has settled down into the peaceful pursuits of private life at his home in Washington, Georgia, about a hundred miles from this place. He came out of the war tolerably well, considering the share he took in bringing it on. He lost nothing but his slave property. He has large landed estates in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, and he is now diligently cultivating them with free labor. Those who know him, and have recently seen him say that no inducements could get him into politics again. He accepts the situation, will obey the laws and behave himself. In the Senate at the outbreak of the war, he was living at Macomb—broken down in fortune, and laid in health. He managed to lose all his property by the war, and now supports himself by keeping a large wood yard. The Georgians laugh a good deal at his misfortunes, and when they ask them, when he is doing, they tell you he is saving cordwood. A. H. Stephens, is little seen or heard of. He is at his home, at Crawfordville, on the road between here and Augusta, practicing law. His views on the reconstruction question are not known. They have been given to the public, in a long and elaborate treatise, and have been as repeatedly contradicted. I heard something recently in connection with the election of Mr. Stephens to the United States Senate, which

I have not seen in print, and which I think ought to be published in justice to the President; for if poor Andy doesn't need a little justice, who does? It is this: Mr. Stephens, as is well known, did not desire to be elected. He told his friends so, but they urged it upon him. He hesitated to do with it. He happened to be in the interior of Georgia at the time—in a military command, I think—and took great interest in the matter—representing the views, no doubt, of the Northern War Democracy, which he acted politically. Steadman telegraphed to Johnson to know if it would be advisable to elect Stephens. The President replied very decidedly in the negative, saying that Mr. Stephens was on parole, and ought not to meddle in politics at all. His advice was not taken, and Stephens was elected. It will be remembered that many editorial papers of the North accused Mr. Johnson of aiding in the election of Stephens, and spoke of it as an insult to the North, etc. What I state here I have from a man who has in his possession the correspondence that passed between Steadman and the President.

There is a large gold mining interest in being developed in the Northeastern part of this State, about a hundred miles from Atlanta, near a place called Dahlonega. Two companies have recently been formed with capital, and approved machinery has been sent to work the mines. General Grant is a heavy stockholder in one of the companies—the same in which the C. S. A. General Dick Taylor is one of the principal directors. Those who have embarked in the enterprise, and among them are many of the largest financiers of the South, New York and the Northwest, are anxiously waiting to see if the gold will be found. The yield looked for is something absolutely fabulous to my ears. The only wonder is that some of the "bummers" didn't find out about the gold mine while they were here. They would have sold it for a fortune, and it is without the aid of any patent machinery. If any thing can be invented to dig faster or deeper than a "bummer" in pursuit of hidden treasure, I should like to hear of it.

J. MACK.

From the Memphis Bulletin, May 19, Southern Baptist Convention.

MORNING SESSION.

This respectable body of Christians met in the First Baptist Church of this city, yesterday morning, at 10 o'clock, Dr. Mell of Georgia, President, in the chair.

After the reading of the scriptures by the President, and the singing of an appropriate hymn, prayer was offered by Dr. Crane, of Virginia.

The Secretaries of the Convention not being present, Mr. A. F. Crane, of Maryland, and Mr. P. Abell, of Virginia, were appointed as Secretaries pro tem.

On motion of Dr. Williams, of Missouri, it was ordered that the credentials of the delegates from the several States and the District of Columbia, be now laid upon the Clerk's table.

The list of delegates was read by the Secretary, which, being long, is here omitted.

The Convention then proceeded to the election of officers. Dr. Mell, of Georgia, was re-elected as president; and Messrs. A. F. Crane, of Baltimore, and A. P. Abell, of Virginia, were chosen as Secretaries.

Leading the election of Vice Presidents, on motion of Dr. Fuller, of Baltimore, the Convention agreed to spend a season in religious exercises.

Dr. J. H. B. of Baltimore, and Brother Schofield, of St. Louis, led the Convention in prayer.

On motion of Dr. Teasdale, of Mississippi, the Convention adjourned till three o'clock, p. m.

Prayer by Rev. J. R. Graves, of Memphis.

EVENING SESSION.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment. After singing a hymn, prayer was offered by the Rev. A. W. Chambliss, of Mississippi.

The following Vice Presidents were declared elected: Rev. R. Fuller, D. D., of Maryland. Rev. A. P. Williams, D. D., of Missouri. Rev. J. L. Burrows, D. D., of Virginia. Rev. J. W. D. Creath, of Texas.

Dr. Mell then thanked the Convention for renewed evidence of continued confidence in him by re-electing him to the Presidency.

On motion of Dr. Teasdale, it was resolved that the Convention meet at 9 A. M. and adjourn at 12 P. M., and meet at 3 P. M. and adjourn at 6 P. M. each day.

On motion of Dr. Abell, of Virginia, a committee of Credentials was appointed, consisting of one from each State, viz: J. W. M. Williams, H. W. Hodges, T. E. Skinner, R. Furman, D. G. Daniel, A. Vanhorn, D. E. Burns, F. Courtney, W. C. Crane, W. M. Lee, G. W. Hyde, R. G. Kimbrough, and W. M. Goodwin.

A Committee on Religious Exercises was appointed, consisting of the pastors and Deacons of the Baptist Churches of this city.

On motion of Dr. Rambaut, of Kentucky, the following committee was appointed to consider the expediency of organizing a Bible and Colportage Society, to wit: Dr. T. Rambaut, Dr. S. Henderson, Dr. W. F. Broadus, W. H. Bayless, M. M. Modersett, and A. D. Sears.

On motion, the Convention agreed to receive the reports of the secretaries of the various Boards of Foreign Missions, and the Rev. Dr. Taylor then read a report of the Board of Foreign Missions, which was referred to appropriate committees, as follows:

On China Missions—Dr. R. Fuller, J. T. B. May, W. Williams, T. G. Kean, R. Jones, J. M. Morgan, and Dr. G. W. Samson. On Africa Missions—Dr. G. W. Samson, T. B. Cooper, W. H. Barksdale, J. J. D. Renfro, D. B. Morrill, C. C. Connor, Dr. A. P. Williams.

On Publishing a Missionary Paper—Dr. W. C. Crane, J. D. Huffman, S. Henderson, A. W. Williams, George Tucker, J. J. Toon, and H. Dudley.

The treasurer's report was then read, showing a balance in the treasury at the last meeting of the Convention of \$10 91. The amount received since, including balance of last year, is \$21,678 85. Balance now on hand, \$224 18. The report was ordered to be printed in the minutes.

Report of the Domestic Mission Board was read by Dr. M. T. Sumner, the corresponding secretary, and referred, on motion, to the following committees:

On Home Evangelization—Dr. J. B. Bestor, H. H. Bagley, J. A. Broadus, J. E. Amos, T. C. Teasdale, H. McDonald, E. Strolle and J. H. Low.

On Coliseum Place Baptist Church, New Orleans—P. King, J. L. M. Curry, G. W. Sampson, J. T. Freeman, R. Holman and H. Clark.

On Finances—R. Furman, A. B. Cabanis, A. C. Edwards, H. Garrett, J. F. Smith and W. H. Felix.

On Religious Instruction of the Colored Population—not appointed for want of time.

The Treasurer's Report of the Domestic Board was read, and ordered to be incorporated in the minutes.

The Convention adjourned to meet at 11 o'clock to-morrow.

The Introductory Sermon was preached to a large and attentive congregation last night, by the Rev. Dr. Brantly, of Georgia.

Justice Day, of Washington, D. C., died recently in Minnesota.

THE CROPS OF THE SOUTH.

WHEAT.—We hear of some little complaint of rust or red mould on wheat, but as a general thing, the prospect for a good yield is very promising. We make the following extract from a note from one of our farmers in the lower part of the country: "It is needless to say, what is generally known, wheat is looking finely; it is heading out beautifully, and some is in full bloom, and will be ready to harvest within four weeks. Those who are bringing corn intend to feed with wheat as soon as it gets in the dough, in lieu of corn; and a very wise plan it is, too, for wheat is quite as good as corn for plow stock, and almost every farmer sown some wheat. So, you see, three weeks more, and the sheep necessities of the farmers will have ended. Freedmen are still conducting themselves with marked decorum, and the majority of them express themselves in favor of the abolishment of the Freedmen's Bureau."

Griffin (Ga.) Star.

THE WHEAT CROP. Our eccentric friend, Mr. Guthrie, says: "If we have as much rain as the present month as we had last May, away goes *Candy* and the *hounds*, and that he would not give \$5,000 for the wheat crop of Floyd. We hope it will not be so bad as our friend predicts, but we have a sad and feeling recollection of the result of so much rain last year. Already the wheat crop has been cut short from the immense quantity of rain last fall. The head is very short, and the stalk turning yellow in many places. We must hope for the best, and not predict a failure too soon."

Rome (Ga.) Commercial.